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A Replacement Name for *Ichthyophaga* Syromiatnikova, 1949 (Platyhelminthes: Prolecithophora), with a Nomenclatural Analysis of its Avian Senior Homonym

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It is shown that the genus name proposed for a flatworm, *Ichthyophaga* Syromiatnikova, 1949, is not preoccupied by the name frequently used for a genus of fishing eagles, *Ichthyophaga* Lesson, 1843, since usage of the latter in modern ornithological publications is actually based on a subsequent misspelling or an unjustified emendation of the original generic name *Ichthyophaga* Lesson, 1843. Despite this one-letter difference, a replacement name for the flatworm genus is necessary due to the prevailing usage in ornithology of the generic name spelled as *Ichthyophaga*. As replacement name the generic name *Piscinquilinus* nomen novum is proposed.

Key Words: nomenclature, taxonomy, Platyhelminthes, *Ichthyophaga*, *Piscinquilinus* nomen novum, Aves, Accipitridae, *Ichthyophaga*, fishing eagles.

Introduction

Since the generic name of the flatworm *Ichthyophaga subcutanea* Syromiatnikova, 1949 (Prolecithophora Karling, 1940; Urastomidae Marcus, 1951), proposed by Syromiatnikova (1949: 805), is also used for the bird genus *Ichthyophaga* Lesson, 1843 (Accipitridae Vigors, 1824), it is to be expected that replacement of the generic name is required for the flatworm, according to the principles of priority and homonymy of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999, Articles 23, 52, and 56). The bird genus comprises two species of Asian and Indonesian fishing eagle, *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* (Horsfield, 1821) and *Ichthyophaga humilis* (Müller and Schlegel, 1841). Our nomenclatural study, however, revealed that the current spelling of the bird genus name is actually based on a misspelling or an unjustified emendation, but that the generic name of the flatworm needs to be changed notwithstanding.

Discussion

Spelling and references

Ornithological reference works differ in the spelling of the genus name. Some

spell it as *Ichthyophaga* (e.g., Stuart Baker 1928, 1930; Peters 1931; Chasen 1935; Swann 1945) whereas others spell it as *Ichthyophaga* (e.g., Brown and Amadon 1968; Mayr and Cottrell 1979; del Hoyo *et al.* 1994; Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001). If it was really originally spelled as *Ichthyophaga*, then a replacement name for the flatworm might not be necessary (cf. International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999, Art. 56.2).

Standard works on ornithology differ in the precise reference to the original establishment of the genus. They do all attribute the genus to Lesson, but they differ in other bibliographic details concerning the publication of the paper. One encounters the following [N.B. In this paper type face in all direct quotes including scientific names is that of the respective original source]: “*Ichthyophaga* R. P. Lesson, *Echo Monde Savant*, X, 1 Jan. 1843, 14” (Sherborn 1927: 3105), “*Ichthyophaga* R. P. Lesson, *Echo Monde Savant* [2] V. 1843, col. 14 - A. [*teste* Waterhouse]” (Sherborn 1927: 3108), “*L’Echo au Monde Savante*, ser. II, p. 7 (1843)” (Stuart Baker 1928: 114), “*Echo du Monde Savant*, ser. 2, vol. V, col. 14, Jan. 1843” (Stuart Baker 1930: 414), “*Écho du Monde Savant* (2), 7, 1843, col. 14” (Peters 1931), “*Echo Monde Savant*, 10, 14” (Neave 1939: 758; Mayr and Cottrell 1979: 302), “*Écho du Monde Savant*, vol. 7, 1843, col. 14” (Swann 1945: 194). Clearly, for a correct reference one can not rely on these works and the original publication has to be consulted.

Echo du Monde Savant

Unfortunately, the *Echo*, as we shall call it for short, is a journal that is poorly represented in libraries. Already in 1913 Menegaux recognized this situation, which induced him to check two copies available at that time in the Paris Museum for Lesson’s publications. In his introduction, Menegaux (1913) remarked that the structure of the *Echo* is complex, pagination frequently is not exact, at times the numbering of the volumes is complex and sometimes wrong, and the tables of contents are insufficient and full of errors. The general format of the journal consisted of two columns between 1834 and 1842, after which the journal switched to a three-column format.

Menegaux (1913) provided a verbatim re-impression of all of Lesson’s articles in the *Echo*, including the original punctuation and errors, and also precise indications of the original pagination. Menegaux’s (1913) account suggests that nowhere in the *Echo* did Lesson describe the genus *Ichthyophaga* or *Ichthyophaga* (in combination with *javana* as specific name, according to the standard works cited above), neither in the 1843 volume nor in any other volume.

Whence *Ic(h)thyophaga*?

Our literature search suggests that the generic name *Ic(h)thyophaga* most likely entered standard ornithological texts through six or seven steps. The first 20th-century worker to mention the genus was Richmond (1903: 492), who wrote: “Genus *Ichthyophaga* Lesson—*Ichthyophaga* Lesson, *L’Écho du Monde Savant*, 2^e sér., VII, no. 1, January 5, 1843, col. 14—Type, *Ichthyophaga javana* Lesson (= *Falco ichthyaetus* Horsfield) —*Ichthyophaga*, of Lesson, has priority over the other generic names employed for this eagle.”

Riley (1924: 42) subsequently remarked that “Dr. C. Richmond . . . has already pointed out that *Ichthyophaga* Lesson . . . is the proper generic name to be employed for this genus of eagles, but he does not seem to have been followed by subsequent

authors . . . ”

A few years later, Sherborn (1927: 3105) wrote: “*Ichthyophaga* R. P. Lesson, *Echo Monde Savant*, X, 1 Jan. 1843, 14” and, on page 3108, “*Ichthyophaga* R. P. Lesson, *Echo Monde Savant* [2] V. 1843, col. 14-A. [*teste* Waterhouse]”.

Stuart Baker (1928: 114) wrote in a footnote that “ . . . Riley has shown (*Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, vol. LXIV, p. 43; *ibid.*, Richmond, vol. XXVI, p. 492, 1903) that the proper name for this genus is *Ichthyophaga*, antedating Kaup’s name *Polioaëtus* by four years”. Subsequently the same author (Stuart Baker 1930: 414) added extra information: “Type by mon., *I. javana* Less = *Falco ichthyaëtus* Horsf. . . .”.

In their list of generic and subgeneric names, Schulze *et al.* (1930: 1658) included “*Ichthyophaga* [pro *Ichthyophaga* R. Lesson 1843] C. Sherborn Index An. Sect. 2 fasc. 12 p. 3105 1927 III Av. Rapt.”

The generic name then entered Peters’ (1931) prestigious “Checklist of Birds of the World”, by reference to Stuart Baker (1928, 1930), and subsequently became the established name for the genus, spelled either as *Ichthyophaga* or, more often in recent standard works, *Ichthyophaga*.

With one exception, we have been unable to find a reference either to *Ic(h)thyophaga* or to *I. javana* antedating Richmond’s (1903) publication. Agassiz (1846, 1848), Marschall (1873), Sharpe (1874), Giebel (1875), and Scudder (1882) do not mention the genus *Ic(h)thyophaga* nor the specific name *javana*. We have come across only one publication antedating Richmond (1903), which is apparently the same one referred to by Sherborn (1927) (see above), *viz.* Waterhouse (1889: 106), who wrote “*Ichthyophaga*, Lesson, *L’Echo du Monde Savant*, sér. 2, V, col. 14 (1843).”

Examination of the 1843 run of the *Echo* from the General Library of the Natural History Museum in London revealed that the successive issues of the journal were published twice a week on Thursdays and Sundays. The first issue of year 10, i.e. 1843, lacks a precise date of publication but it must have been published on Thursday, January 5, since the second issue is specifically dated Sunday, January 8, 1843. The illustrated heading of the first issue of 1843 states that it belongs to volume 5 of the second series: “Tome V de la 2 série.” Although the issues are numbered separately, the numbering of the text columns is consecutive over the various issues that make up, for example, the First Semester of Year 10. Thus, the first issue of 1843 includes columns 1–24 (three columns per page), the second issue columns 25–48, etc. The first issue of the Second Semester is again referred to as number 1 and starts with column 1.

Although Menegaux (1913) indeed provided a verbatim re-impression of all of Lesson’s papers in the *Echo*, he clearly chose not to copy the series of ornithological indices that Lesson regularly published in this journal. In each “Index ornithologique” Lesson provided annotated taxonomic lists of families and genera of birds, specifying in abbreviated manner where and by whom descriptions of genera and species had been published. For example, in the First Semester volume of 1843 Lesson published nine of his taxonomically consecutive indices, starting on columns 13, 36, 60, 225, 346, 588, 727, 1067, and 1087, respectively. Half-way down column 14 of the first issue of 1843 (Year 10, Volume V of the 2nd series) the index specifies the following: “ 30° Genre: *ICHTHYOPHAGA*, Less.; *Ichthyaëtus*, La Fresn. (nom usité en 1829 par Kaup); *haliaëtus*, Horsf. hab. la Malaisie.—*Ichthyiophaga javana*; *falco ichthyaëtus*, Horsf., tran. Linn. XIII, p. 136, et Zool. resear. fig.; *ichthyaëtus bicolor*, gray; La Fresne. dict. un., 1839. hab. les bords des lacs et rivières de Java.”

We are not in the position to provide a comprehensive nomenclatural interpretation of this entire, relatively opaque, quote from Lesson. Furthermore, such an analysis is beyond the scope of the present paper. In the present context, however, it suffices to note that the new genus name proposed by Lesson is spelled as *Ichthyophaga* and that he applied the new specific epithet *javana* for the species *Falco ichthyaetus* Horsfield, 1821. Richmond's (1903) assertion that Lesson's *Ichthyophaga* has priority over other names for this genus of eagles is thus fully correct, although according to Richmond (*l.c.*) the generic name was published in the second series, volume VII (see above), not, as we have confirmed, in volume V of the second series of the *Echo*.

The roots of the generic name and the specific name *javana* can be traced back to Lesson's (1831) publication of a kind of catalogue of material present in French collections. This publication does not mention *Ic(h)thyophaga* nor *javana*, but on p. 43 Lesson does detail the Asian fishing eagle, "Pygargue ichthyophage; *Haliaeetus ichthyaetus*, Horsf.", which he also refers to as "*Jokowuru* des javanais". Lesson (1831) also provided a short morphological description of the eagle.

"Pygargue ichthyophage" in French simply means the "fish-eating Fish Eagle", which Lesson apparently knew from Horsfield's (1821) description (who originally assigned the species to the genus *Falco*). The phrase "*Jokowuru* des Javanais" most likely must be interpreted to imply that on Java people knew the species under the vernacular name *Jokowuru*. It is evident from Lesson's (1831) short but clear description that he knew the species well from preserved material and/or earlier accounts.

Valid name

For a genus-group name published before 1931 to be available it must be accompanied by a description or definition of the taxon that it denotes, or by an indication (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999, Art. 12.1). The manner of indication specified in Article 12.2.5 of ICZN particularly applies to the present case: "in the case of a new genus-group name, the use of one or more available specific names in combination with it, or clearly included under it, or clearly referred to it by bibliographic reference, provided that the specific name or names can be unambiguously assigned to a nominal species-group taxon or taxa." From the quotations provided above it is evident that Lesson (1831, 1843) applied the newly coined specific name *javana* for the species *Falco ichthyaetus* Horsfield, 1821. Confusingly, the first combination of the specific name *javana* was made with the simultaneously differently spelled genus name *Ichthyiophaga* (Lesson 1843; see above). Evidently, both spellings refer to the same taxon, but we do here explicitly consider *Ichthyophaga* to be the correct spelling, with *Ichthyiophaga* representing the variant one.

On the basis of our literature study it must be concluded that *Ichthyophaga* is an incorrect subsequent spelling or unjustified emendation of *Ichthyophaga*. In principle, the name *Ichthyophaga* is available and taxonomically valid and can be combined with the type species, *Falco ichthyaetus* Horsfield, 1821, under the rules in ICZN. Although the original spelling of the bird genus differs by one letter from that of the flatworm genus, we suggest that Article 56.2 of ICZN does not apply. In ornithology there appears to have been a trend towards the preferred spelling of the name as *Ichthyophaga*, which has now stabilized at the point of ubiquitous

usage of this generic name in modern literature (see above; Sibley and Monroe 1990; del Hoyo *et al.* 1994; Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001). Therefore, we suggest that Article 33.3.1 of ICZN applies, mandating the preservation of a name when an incorrect subsequent spelling is in prevailing usage and is attributed to the publication of the original spelling.

Conclusion

As a replacement generic name for the flatworm *Ichthyophaga subcutanea* we propose the genus name *Piscinquilinus nomen novum*. The name is derived from the Latin “piscis” (fish) and “inquilinus” (inhabitant, tenant); its gender is masculine and therefore the full species name becomes *Piscinquilinus subcutaneus* (Syromiatnikova, 1949). The flatworm was described as a subcutaneous parasite of two species of fish, *Bero elegans* (Steindachner, 1881) (sculpins) and *Hexagrammos decagrammus* (Pallas, 1810) (greenlings), from the vicinity of Vladivostok (Syromiatnikova 1949; see also Menitsky 1963).

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